

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00084 030931Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /073 W

----- 122459

R 030830Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1924

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0084

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

EUBJ: VIOLENCE ERUPTS AT TWO NATAL COAL MINES

1. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, SOME 31 AFRICAN MINE WORKERS WERE KILLED IN BATTLES BETWEEN XHOSA AND BASUTO WORKERS AT NORTHFIEL COAL MINE NEAR GLENCOE IN NORTHER NATAL OVER WEEKEND. WIDESPREAD DAMAGE INFLICTED ON HOSTELS AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS DURING FIGHTING WHICH LASTED SOME 12 HOURS. POLICE MOVED IN FOLLOWING END OF FIGHTING AND ALL BASUTO WORKERS, NUMBERING 359, HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED AT THEIR REQUEST. MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER HAS ORDERED AN INQUIRY INTO RIOT.

2. ONE AFRICAN MINE WORKER WAS ALSO KILLED IN CLASHES BETWEEN BASUTO AND XHOSA WORKERS AT HLOBANE COAL MINE 48 MILES FROM GLENCOE. PROMPT POLICE INTERVENTION AND USE OF TAR GAS

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PREVENTED FURTHER DEATHS AT THAT MINE.

3. COMMENT: AE WAS CASE IN UNREST AND RIOTING AT NUMEROUS MINES IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY, NO ADEQUATE EXPLANATION HAS BEEN ADVANCED FOR THIS SUDDEN UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE IN NATAL'S COAL MINES OTHER THAN TRADITIONAL ANIMOSITY BEOWEAN TRIBAL GROUPS EXACERBATED BY UNNATURAL SITUATION OF THOUSANDS OF MEN LIVING IN "SINGLE QUARTERS" FAR FROM HOME WITHOUT THEIR FAMILIES.

HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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